

OCTOBER 11, 2007

NOTICE

There will be a meeting of the **Environmental Control Committee** of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County on **Thursday, October 18, 2007** at the hour of **10:00 A.M.** in the Board Room, Room 569, County Building, 118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois to consider the following:

289094 COOK COUNTY BOTTLE WATER BAN (PROPOSED RESOLUTION). Submitting a Proposed Resolution sponsored by Mike Quigley; Co-sponsored by Forrest Claypool, Roberto Maldonado, Larry Suffredin, John P. Daley and Gregg Goslin, County Commissioners.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

COOK COUNTY BOTTLE WATER BAN

WHEREAS, bottled water costs up to 10,000 times more per gallon than tap water; and

WHEREAS, bottled water is often not of high water quality; and

WHEREAS, and in a study conducted by the National Resources Defense Council one third of bottled water tested contained significant contamination; and

WHEREAS, 60-70 percent of bottled water is not regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA); and

WHEREAS, for the 30-40 percent it does regulate, the FDA only requires companies to test a sample of water once per week; and

WHEREAS, the EPA requires testing of municipal water systems between 300-480 times per month; and

WHEREAS, supplying the plastic for the water bottles consumed by Americans required more than 47 million gallons of oil annually, equivalent to the release of one billion pounds of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, the transportation and shipment of bottled water burns massive quantities of fossil fuel; and

WHEREAS, 86 percent of plastic water bottles used in the U.S. end up in landfills, where they will take up to 1,000 years to biodegrade; and

WHEREAS, the incineration of the plastic bottles releases toxic byproducts such as chlorine gas and ash laden with heavy metals into the air; and

WHEREAS, the cities of Los Angeles, Ann Arbor, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, and Santa Barbara have banned the city-financed purchase of plastic water bottles and the sale of plastic water bottles on municipal property; and

WHEREAS, the cities of Oklahoma City, Charlottesville (VA), and New York are considering bans; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors passed a resolution calling for a study on the impact of plastic water bottles on municipal waste systems, citing the increased plastic waste created by the bottles, the fossil fuels used to produce and transport them and the billions spent by city governments on water each year; and

WHEREAS, methods exist to provide purified water to County employees through means that minimize harm to the environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Cook County Board of Commissioners that no County department or agency shall purchase single serving bottles of water using County funds, unless an employee contract specifies usage, and that this prohibition will apply to County contractors and County funded and/or sponsored events; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Purchasing Agent and Department of Maintenance shall, within 90 days of passage, work with all County departments to conduct a water audit to assess their current water usage, availability of fresh tap water, and the feasibility and cost of installing water purification systems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such audit shall determine the viability of switching all bottled water dispensers to bottle-less water dispensers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such audit shall also determine the viability of turning on all currently disconnected drinking water fountains; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that no County department or agency shall purchase bottled water dispensers or bottled water refills beginning December 1, 2007, and the County shall install bottle-less water dispensers where appropriate.

*** Referred to the Committee on Environmental Control on September 6, 2007.**

Matthew B. DeLeon, Secretary

Chairman: Quigley
Vice-Chairman: Silvestri
Members: Beavers, Gorman, Moreno, Peraica, Steele